

Student Connection

Sophie Kelmenson

A cohort of 42 first-year students and two new faculty members joined 17 PhD students, 52 second-year students, and 22 faculty members in the 2014-2015 school year.

Changes in New East

In the coming year, DCRP will change the structure of the specializations, offering Housing and Community Development, Economic Development, Land Use and Environmental Planning, and Transportation as specializations, while offering concentrations in Real Estate, Placemaking, Hazards, GIS, and International Development.

Professional Development

Planner's Forum's student-led Career Development Committee will be hosting networking happy hours this summer, and alumni can look forward to a more regular update via our new alumni newsletter and the opportunity to join the DCRP Alumni Association. This is part of an effort to connect students to the DCRP alumni community. To connect with current planning students, the DCRP website now showcases profiles of every student in the department. See <http://planning.unc.edu/jobs> to view these student profiles.

Workshops

This year, DCRP second-year students participated in four workshops. First, the housing and community development workshop, led by Mai Nguyen, presented a proposal to expand the local food systems in an impoverished neighborhood in Durham to local leaders and community members. Bill Lester's economic development workshop created an interactive website and report entitled the State of Low-Wage North Carolina for the Center for Poverty, Work, and Opportunity. The website (<http://www.lowwagenc.org/>) analyzes low-wage work and its impact on individuals, families, and the economy more broadly (page 8 of this volume also features images from the website). The Transportation workshop partnered with the World Bank to evaluate mobility and accessibility in Nairobi, Kenya. The students quantified the daily cost of congestion within the region, as well as the proportion of residents within reasonable walking, transit, and driving distances from employment centers, healthcare facilities,

and parks. The workshop's final report will become a chapter in the World Bank's Kenya Urbanization Review. Lastly, the land use and environmental planning workshop spent the spring semester identifying affordable housing development opportunities in future light rail station areas in Durham.

Conferences

DCRP students were present at the North Carolina State 2015 Urban Design Conference, the North Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association (NC-APA) Conference, the national American Planning Association (APA) Conference in Seattle, the Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting, and the Association for American Geographers conference this year. In addition attending these conferences, several masters students also presented their own work. Nate Baker and Amy Bullington presented work at the NC-APA conference, Cara Wittekind presented her work at the national APA conference in Seattle, and Julianne Stern presented at the Association for American Geographers Conference.

This year, DCRP hosted the first Annual Master's Project Conference, in which graduating students presented their projects, with topics ranging from models for youth participation in creating healthy cities to integrating green stormwater infrastructure into the built environment.

New Faculty Members

Professors Danielle Spurlock and Andrew Whittemore joined the ranks of UNC faculty this year. Professor Whittemore teaches placemaking and real estate development courses, and researches urban form and design, planning history and theory, and land use planning and zoning in the United States. He received the Outstanding Academic Title award in 2012. Professor Spurlock likes to call herself a "triple Tarheel," as she earned her masters in urban planning and public health at UNC before completing her PhD at DCRP. Her

Sophie Kelmenson will be entering her second year as a Master's of City and Regional Planning (MCRP) student specializing in Economic Development. She currently serves as the APA-NC Student Representative.

research explores the relationships among land use, the environment, human behavior, and structural inequality on a variety of research projects including: social stratification and its impact of the siting of hazardous land uses; social vulnerability and emergency preparedness; and the impact of land use decisions on ecosystems services. She started and leads the Environmental Justice Policy Lab, which assists communities fighting for environmental justice in North Carolina.

Student and Faculty Accomplishments

First-year PhD student (and Carolina Planning Journal Editorial Board Member) Amanda Martin was awarded a prestigious NSF Graduate Research Fellowship for her work on economic resilience in vulnerable coastal communities. Another PhD student, Lindsay Braun, received the Dwight D. Eisenhower Transportation Fellowship, which involved showcasing research at the Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting in January, where she also earned the Best Poster Presentation Award. 2015 DCRP graduates Tanner Dudley, Aaron Hursey, Malcolm Munkittrick, Julianne Stern, and Amy Bullington competed in the Urban Land Institute's Hines Competition. Christina Galardi blogged for the Safe Routes to School National Partnership bimonthly, Amanda Klepper and Julio Paredes inventoried affordable housing units near proposed light rail stops, and John Anagnost published four planning-related letters to the editor published in the *Daily Tar Heel*, and was featured in print and televised interviews.

Planner's Forum sub-committee "Plan for All," formerly called the Diversity Committee, held several Brown Bag luncheons this year in order to facilitate conversations around race, class, and gender among students. Topics included planning for gay neighborhoods in Texas, immigrants in North Carolina, the creative class dialogue and low-income folks, and sensitive community outreach. Another sub-committee is creating a web portal for DCRP students that will include course guides, advising resources, and more.

The Coastal Resilience Center of Excellence (previously the Coastal Hazards Center), headed by DCRP's own Professor Gavin Smith, received a \$20 million grant from the Department of Homeland Security to continue researching border security, explosive threats, and resilience to natural disasters. Dr. William Lester received the best article award at the Urban Affairs Association Conference in Miami this year for his paper entitled "The Role of History in Redistributive Policy Discourse: Evidence from Living Wage Campaigns in Chicago and San Francisco" that appeared in the *Journal of Urban Affairs* – a leading field journal in political science. Department Chair Roberto Quercia earned both the Trudier Harris Distinguished Professorship and the Felix Harvey Awards, while Dr. Daniel Rodriguez earned the Cherokee Distinguished Professorship. Dr. William Rohe finished his Fulbright Research Scholarship studying urban revitalization in the United Kingdom in June, while

Meenu Tewari completed a three year position as the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) Chair Visiting Professor at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations.

Lastly, we are happy to announce that New East will become ADA compliant this summer. Further, New East will become the new home to 38 prints by Alexander Davis, a celebrated architect of the Greek Revivalist style, who designed many iconic buildings on campus and in North Carolina during the nineteenth century.



This year's winning DCRP t-shirt design was created by first year master's student Libbie Weimer.